THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended):   A vertical traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a

person's spine, said assembly comprising:

a)   standing frame means and torso harness means coupled to depend downwardly from

said frame means,

b)   said harness means being effective to maintain a person in a vertical traction

suspension position after the person dons said harness means, and

d)——, traction force focusing means attached to the frame means for applying a

predetermined amount of focused traction pressure directly to a selected location along the spine of

the person who is in said vertical traction suspension position.

Claim 2 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein

stand means disposed on said standing frame means includes non-traction receiving surface

means on which a person stands for donning the torso harness means before assuming said vertical

traction suspension position and applying said predetermined amount of focused traction pressure.

Claim 3 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 2 wherein

said predetermined amount of focused traction pressure is derived from the weight of the

person who is in said vertical traction suspension position.

Claim 4 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 3 wherein

said predetermined amount of focused traction pressure is equal to about 40% of said person's

weight.

Claim 5 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 1 2 wherein

stand means is mounted to said standing frame means and includes said non-traction

~~receiving surface and~~ <u>further includes</u> a partial traction receiving surface on which the person <u>to be</u>

<u>maintained in said vertical traction suspension position</u> may stand to effect adjustment of the harness

means with respect to the frame means and the person's torso before ~~being~~ said person is subjected to

a full traction treatment,

said harness means being effective to produce a partial traction treatment pressure equal to a

desired percentage of a full traction treatment pressure when the person steps from the non-traction

receiving surface to said partial traction receiving surface after donning said harness means.

Claim 6 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 5 wherein

said desired percentage is about 20% of the full traction treatment pressure which is equal to

about 40% of the weight of the person who is in the traction position.

Claim 7 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein

said frame means is ~~free standing~~ <u>freestanding</u> and ~~said harness means depends downwardly~~

~~from said frame means,~~ said ~~focused~~ traction force <u>focusing</u> means being effective to derive said

focused traction pressure from a portion of the weight of the person in said <u>vertical</u> traction

<u>suspension</u> position~~, and said vertical traction suspension position is a gravity traction suspension~~

~~position~~ with said person being vertically suspended with the harness means to produce said focused

traction pressure.

Claim 8 (original):   An assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein

said selected location along the spine of the person includes an inflamed area on the person's

back.

Claim 9 (currently amended):   A vertical traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a

person's spine, said assembly comprising:

a)   <u>standing</u> frame means and torso harness means coupled to flexibly depend

<u>downwardly</u> from said frame means, and

b)   ~~stand means mounted to~~ said frame means ~~to provide~~ <u>including</u> a first non-traction

receiving surface ~~on which~~ <u>means for supporting</u> a person ~~may stand~~ <u>while standing</u> to don the torso

harness means and a second partial traction receiving surface ~~on which~~ <u>means for supporting</u> a

person ~~may stand~~ <u>while standing</u> to adjust said harness means with respect to the person's torso and

assembly before the person voluntarily steps to a vertical, gravity traction suspension position,

c)   said harness means being effective to suspend the person from the frame means for a

partial traction pressure when the person stands on said second partial traction receiving surface

<u>means</u> after donning said harness means,

e)   said partial traction pressure being less than a full traction pressure that is applied to

the person ~~who is~~ <u>while</u> in said vertical, gravity traction suspension position.

Claim 10 (currently amended):   A traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a person's

spine, said assembly comprising:

a)   ~~free standing~~ <u>freestanding</u> frame means and harness means effective to releasably gird

the torso of a person,

b)   said harness means being coupled to flexibly depend <u>downwardly</u> from said frame

means to suspend the person from the frame means in a ~~gravity~~ <u>vertical</u> traction suspension position,

and

c)   ~~focused~~ traction force <u>focusing</u> means adjustably connected to the frame means for

applying traction pressure directly to a selected location along the spine of the person in said ~~gravity~~ vertical traction suspension position.

Claim 11 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein

said frame means includes backboard means for supporting an upper body portion of the person who is girded with said harness means and suspended in said ~~gravity~~ vertical traction suspension position.

Claim 12 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 11 wherein

said backboard means includes said ~~focused~~ traction force focusing means having releasable tightening means for selectively securing the ~~focused~~ traction focusing force means to a plurality of vertical locations along said backboard means.

Claim 13 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein

said frame means includes a front rearwardly tilted frame portion including backboard means,

said traction force focusing means includes pad element means adjustably mounted to the backboard means and releasable fastening means for selectively positioning the pad element means with respect to a ~~person using said assembly to undergo vertical traction treatment in a full~~ person's spine before said person is in said vertical traction suspension position.

Claim 14 (currently amended):   An assembly as defined in claim 10 wherein

said ~~focused~~ traction force focusing means is effective to direct a traction force equal to a fraction of the person's weight at said selected location along the spine of said person.

Claim 15 (original):   An assembly as defined in claim 14 wherein

said traction force is equal to about 40% of the person's weight.

Claim 16 (currently amended):   A traction method for treating an inflamed area adjacent a

person's backbone, said method comprising:

a)   providing standing frame means and torso girding means coupled to flexibly depend

downwardly from said frame means, said frame means including traction force focusing means for

applying an amount of focused traction pressure directly to a selected location along the spine of the

person who is suspended in a vertical, gravity traction suspension position,

b)   girding said person with said torso girding means,

c)   suspending said person from said standing frame means girded with said torso girding

means for deriving a horizontally directed traction pressure from the weight of said person who is

rests against said traction force focusing means in said vertical, gravity traction suspension position,

and d) applying to thereby apply said traction pressure with said traction force focusing means

directly to said inflamed area along the spine of said person while suspended in said vertical, gravity

traction suspension position.

Claim 17 (original):   A method as defined in claim 16 wherein

said traction pressure is equal to about 40% of said person's body weight.

Claim 18 (currently amended):   A method as defined in claim 16 wherein

said applying suspending step includes a treatment cycle having a plurality of abbreviated traction

sessions in which said person is suspended in said vertical, gravity traction suspension position, and

said traction sessions are separated with respect to each other with a rest period without traction.

Claim 19 (original):   A method as defined in claim 18 wherein

each said traction session has a duration of up to 90 seconds and each rest period has a duration of up

to 90 seconds.